

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13429 121731Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13429

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF CARTER
ADMINISTRATION

1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA JUNE 11 HAS THE FIRST MAJOR COMMENTARY ON THE PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH. THE ANALYSIS, COUCHED IN VERY NEGATIVE TERMS, DIRECTLY AND FORCEFULLY CRITICIZES BOTH THE SPEECH AND THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF AMERICAN POLICY. THIS MAIN PIECE BY VLADIMIR BOL'SHAKOV IS SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND BY A SERIES OF NEWS REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES WHICH CONSTITUTE THE STRONGEST
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 13429 121731Z

PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CURRENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION
YET TO APPEAR IN THE SOVIET MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

2. BOL'SHAKOV'S "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" REVIEW COLUMN (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TASS/FBIS TEXT) HAS COME OUT WITH THE DEFINITIVE SOVIET PUBLIC INTERPRETATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS ADDRESS ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

IT IS A LENGTHY, SHARPLY WORDED, VERY CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SPEECH WHICH BOL'SHAKOV ASSERTS "OBSERVERS" CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING A "HARD TONE, WITH THE STRESS NOT ON COOPERATION, BUT ON RIVALRY WITH THE SOVIET UNION." THE AUTHOR USES THE SPEECH TO MAKE EXTENSIVE COMMENTS ON THE GENERAL TREND IN AMERICAN POLICY, WHICH, HE IMPLIES IS MORE AND MORE COMING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF "THE AGGRESSIVE, HARD LINE" OF NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI, WHO IS "KNOWN FOR HIS PARTIALITY TO ANTI-COMMUNISM."

3. THE COMMENTARY IS CRITICAL OF THE "IMPERMISSIBLE OUTBURSTS" IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ABOUT THE NATURE OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND ABOUT THE SOVIET ACTIVITY IN AFRICA AND GOES ON TO JUSTIFY AND DEFEND THE ACTIONS OF THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES IN AFRICA. BOL'SHAKOV CLAIMS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS ABOUT THE NEED FOR A SALT AGREEMENT ARE "GOOD" BUT ARE CONTRADICTED BY THE "DEEDS" OF THE ADMINISTRATION. HE, MORE THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST, RELATES THE DEEDS AND POLICIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION DIRECTLY WITH THE "SPIRIT" OF THE "COLD WAR." HIS FINAL REMARKS ARE THAT THE POLICY OF THE U.S. IS "FRAUGHT WITH A THROWBACK TO THE COLD WAR" AND "A CONFRONTATION" WITH THE USSR.

4. BOL'SHAKOV CLEARLY LAYS THE BLAME FOR THE CURRENT
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 13429 121731Z

STATE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS ON PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI. THIS IS REINFORCED THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND BY SEVERAL OTHER REPORTS IN PRAVDA WHICH ATTRIBUTE TO BRZEZINSKI, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCREASE IN PRC PROPAGANDA AGAINST VIETNAM AND FOR A SUPPOSED "DECISION" BY THE U.S. TO SUPPLY THE PRC WITH "EQUIPMENT" WHICH COULD BE USED "FOR MILITARY PURPOSES." BOTH OF THESE EVENTS, TASS CLAIMS OCCURRED JUST FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF BRZEZINSKI TO THE PRC.

5. THE PRESIDENT IS, OF COURSE, DIRECTLY CRITICIZED, BUT THE FOCUS NEVERTHELESS IS PRIMARILY ON BRZEZINSKI. BOL'SHAKOV, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTRASTS THE STATEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS ELECTION, WITH THE ANNAPOLIS SPEECH WHICH CONTAINS REFERENCES TO THE MILITARY BUDGET AND NAVAL POWER THAT BOL'SHAKOV FINDS OBJECTIONABLE, BUT HE CONTENDS THAT THE "IMPORTANT" MATTER IS HOW THE PRESIDENT APPROACHES SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN THIS AREA HE SEES NOTHING POSITIVE APART FROM THE WORDS ABOUT SALT AND OTHER DISARMAMENT TOPICS.

6. THE CRITICISM OF THE ADMINISTRATION IS REINFORCED

BY A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE PRESS WHICH REPORT FAVOR-
ABLY ON OTHERS IN THE U.S. WHO ARE SUPPOSEDLY DOING MORE
FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS THAN THE PRESIDENT AND
HIS ADVISORS. FOR EXAMPLE, PRAVDA PRINTS AN ITEM ON
SENATE SUPPORT FOR SALT AND OPPOSITION TO "ATTEMPTS BY
THE ADMINISTRATION TO 'LINK' SALT WITH OTHER ISSUES"
WHICH ARE TOTALLY UNRELATED. THE SUM OF ALL THIS IS A
WEEKEND OF EXTREMELY ANTI-ADMINISTRATION REPORTAGE WHICH
WE ESTIMATE WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME WHILE YET. TOON

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